# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

## INJUNCTION JUDGE GAGS FREE SPEECH

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Attorneys for the Illinois State Federation of Labor have notified that body that the jail sentence of two months, by Circuit Court Judge Smith on injunction proceedings constitutes an encroachment on the liberties of organized labor and is "a menace that threatens the very life of the trade union movement of Illinois."

The injunction was issued against employes of the Illinois Malleable-Iron company. Two officers of the union first signed an article published in a newspaper calling attention to the strike and urging all strikers to vote at the next mass meeting.

Judge Smith fined the unionists and sentenced them to jail for violating his injunction. He ruled that this was not in violation of free speech and free speech guarantees contained in the United States and Illinois constitutions.

The federation's attorneys say:

The danger of this decision is apparent upon only a cursory reading of the matter involved. It will be noted that this publication is addressed to the fellows of the Illinois Malleable Iron company. It is a method by which a notice of a meeting is published. If this decision is to hold as a precedent, it means that men can be cited and punished for contempt of court under an injunction for words used even in addressing meetings of union workingmen in their own halls and where every man in the body is a defendant to the bill of complaint upon which the writ of injunction is issued. It means that no matter how courteous the language used, no matter how careful a speaker may be, no matter what the purpose in the use of speech may be, that if as a result of his utterances there used to persuade men engaged in a strike, or to persuade men to join a union to advance the cause of organized labor, and the very life of organized labor depends upon the existence and activity of members of unions (and how can we guide others to join), if the employer can point out such language and show that it is a hindrance to his interests, under the broad and sweeping provisions of the injunction, the man making use of the language is then subject to a heavy fine and deprived of his liberty.

"Organized labor may well ask if that be true. Are the constitutional provisions meant to guarantee the liberty of all the citizens of the United States and of this state, or are they meant to give additional liberty to a favored minority class, and deprive the poor man, the working man, the union man, of rights heretofore never seriously questioned or doubted?"

## DISCREDITS HIGHWAY ROBBER.

Washington, Dec. 16.—A witness before the joint congressional committee investigating transportation charges declared that in some financial operations the railroads of this country "have been guilty of things indefensible and bordering highway robber."

"The witness was not a trade unionist, but was William J. Bryan, ex-secretary of state.

Asked for his opinion of federal control of railroads, which is favored by the railroad managers, Mr. Bryan said:

"The railroads would like enormous federal bureau with a great number of officials. The further you remove this power of regulation from the people the less the people can control their representatives, and the tendency of the times is to put into each branch of the service the powers which have been taken away from the people. I am a democrat and believes that society is built up from the bottom; the aristocrat, that society is suspended from the top. I am a democrat."

"When I was in congress I saw the railroads seeking to control congressmen, in a matter of a year, $2,000,000 in connection with the Washington terminal. If they would send their lobbyists with checkbooks in hand with $3,000,000 was in question, what will they do when $60,000,000 or $100,000,000 is at stake?"

## SHOULD KNOW COSTS.

New York, Dec. 16.—Edward N. Hurley, chairman of the federal trade commission, continues his bombardment against manufacturers who are unacquainted with the cost of their products, and who are continually insisting on "efficiency."

In a speech in this city last week the federal official said:

"Manufacturers are unfair to themselves, to their workmen and to the public when they continue to conduct their business with an insufficient and inaccurate knowledge of costs."

These manufacturers have been the backbone of the agitation in favor of the Taylor system of "efficiency" and "speed" cases, and now, trade unionists show, these same men are charged by a government official with "efficiency" theoretical for is entirely lacking in their own business.

## COMMISSION MEN UNITE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 16.—Commission laundry men have organized to force the big laundries to grant new wages and to prevent the commission drivers from being forced out of business.

One of the commission men said:

"The big laundries declare the cost of everything has gone up, but the fact is that they have taken advantage of slight increases in cost to make tremendous increases in rates.

A commission laundry man is one who owns his own business but does not do the actual laundry work. He buys it done by some laundry for him and he is paid on a commission basis.

## RIGHT TO QUIT ESSENTIAL.

New York, Dec. 16.—"Take away the laboring man's right to quit work and you might just as well enslave him," said President Samuel Gompers at the close of Railway Conductors at the Economic club's annual dinner.

President Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin recorded his usual approbation of the Canadian industrial disputes act which prohibits strikes pending a government investigation.

## MANAGER OBJECTS TO UNION.

Danbury, Conn., Dec. 16.—Machinists employed by the Ball and Roller Bearing company, who were forced on strike several weeks ago, are standing firm for their right to organize. When the men organized they were told by Manager Heim that he would not have a man work for him who belonged to a union. This backward-looking gentleman is now having his troubles with strikebreakers.

## SHOP EDUCATORS TO MEET.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—The third annual convention of the Vocational Educational association of the middle west will be held at the Auditorium, January 18-20.

## "GET OFF MOURNERS' BENCH," RAILROADS ARE ADVISED

Washington, Dec. 16.—"It is time for the railroads to remove themselves from the mourners' bench and get into the sunlight," said President Max Thelen of the National Association of Railway Commissioners before the joint congressional committee that is investigating the railroad question.

"The railroads are in a hysteria of pessimism," continued the witness. "With earnings beyond all previous records and constantly growing larger the railroads continue the witness. "With earnings beyond all previous records and constantly growing larger the railroads continue their witness. the absurd task of trying to ruin their own credit."

Referring to the proposed plan for federal incorporation, Phelan said: "The railroads plan broadly provides for the issuing by the federal government of new securities equivalent to all the outstanding securities, including all the excessive fixed indebtedness and watered stock. They are apparently laying the foundation for the ultimate purchase by the federal government."

Phelan insisted state legislation did not tend to impair the credit of the railroads. The credit of the roads was found in unwise railroad construction and administration, he asserted.

"Many roads appear to be suffering from 'acute gastritis, resulting from an overdose of securities,' said Phelan.

## SHORTER WORK DAY PAYS.

Washington, Dec. 16.—In the current issue of the Monthly Review, published by the bureau of labor statistics, labor department of labor, the experience of four American and foreign workshops under the eight-hour day is detailed. The firms listed are: Commonwealth Steel company, Granite City, Ill.; Zeiss Optical Works, Jena, Germany; Salford Iron Works, Manchester, England, and Solvay Chemical Works, near Liege, Belgium.

Regarding the experience of the American firm, the Bulletin says:

"This workmen in the open-hearth department and boiler room were changed, on May 1, from a system of two 12-hour shifts to one of three eight-hour shifts. To this requirement of the service the number of men in the open-hearth department from 22 to 33, but in the boiler room it was necessary to increase the number of men only from eight to 10. The hourly wage rates of all the men concerned were increased an average of 25 per cent. Exactly the same products were made under both systems of working hours.

"Under the eight-hour system, in spite of the increase of hourly rates, there was a slight decrease in the cost of production, owing to the higher efficiency of the workers. There were very considerable reductions in the amounts of time charged and in the amount of fuel oil consumed. Also the quality of the product was very much improved."

## STARTS STRIKE; THEN CRIES.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Ignoring the fact that he started the New York street car strike and that he has refused to arbitrate, President Shonts, of the Interborough Rapid Transit company, New York city, cries for some way to stop strikes.

In an address before the Illinois Manufacturers' association here he said:

"Shouldn't a way be provided to avoid battle, a way in which responsibility of both sides to the public can be made enforceable and the public rights and their rights still be preserved?"

And then Mr. Shonts answers his own question by favoring a law that will "in duty compel" the men to exercise the right to quit work. This, the street car executive believes, will have every trouble-maker where the public will not be inconvenienced.

This plan will not permit Mr. Shonts and his kind to smash street car men's unions, which is the present situation in New York city.

## GOOD NEWS FROM BRIDGEPORT.

Bridgeport, Conn., Dec. 16.—Striking iron molders have continued success. They have not become discouraged because their homes have been seized before judgment was rendered, and it is whispered that employers who were willing to use this procedure have been discussing settlement with their employes. At the present time the strike is on in the most important of the shops have reached an agreement with their employes and in most cases wage rates have been increased $1 a day. There yet remains four shops outside the fold.

It is also whispered that it will be a long time before Bridgeport employers in this industry will listen to the story that the "Open Shop" union can be "put out of business."

## STRIKEBREAKERS' HIGH WAGE.

Indianapolis, Dec. 16.—The strike of structural iron workers is costing the local company, according to this statement published in the Labor Herald:

"Strikebreakers picked up near the pay car showing that one was paid $29 for his week's work and another by the same token $32. The company boasted in its advertisement run in all the newspapers recently that strikebreakers paid union employes were paid about $21 a week for seven days' work, 11 hours a day. And then the company turns around and pays strikebreakers $29 and $32 a week for wrecking its property and, as it is alleged, stealing its materials to sell for revenue. That may be good business judgment, but it doesn't seem so."

## CARRIAGE WORKERS WIN.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 16.—Last June the Creighton & Crisp company locked out employes who are members of the Carriage and Wagon Workers' union. These workers have refused to return except as union men, and the company has come to realize its mistake by agreeing to abandon its anti-union policy. It also agrees to raise wages 10 per cent.

## ACTIVE IN LANSING, MICH.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 16.—Carpenters' union has asked contractors for an eight-hour day and a wage increase of 5 cents an hour, starting April 1, next.

Electrical Workers' union has raised wages from 35 to 40 per month, secured the eight-hour day, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays.

A federal labor union has been organized in this city.

## LET U. S. OWN POSTAL LINES.

Washington, Dec. 16.—In his annual report Postmaster General Burleson recommends that early action be taken by congress declaring a government monopoly over all utilities for the public transmission of intelligence and that as soon as possible the telephone and telegraph facilities of the United States be incorporated into the postal establishment.

## JUDGE REBUKED BY EDITOR

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 16.—The Springfield Republican is not in accord with Federal Judge Hook's position that the Adamson law is unconstitutional even though the court confessed he knew nothing of the merits of the case and only wished United States supreme court to hasten final judgment.

Why did not Judge Hook assume that congress has the right to pass laws and so state the editor.

"The judge admitted that this opinion was not based on study of the merits of the question; what he did was to translate an impression into a judicial decision, and his impression might easily have been rooted in mere prejudice against the statute. No special harm was done, to be sure, for the United States supreme court will not be in the least influenced by Judge Hook's opinion, any should judges of inferior United States courts, whose decisions are not final on constitutional questions, ever grow so foolhardy as to question the validity of an act of congress on the ground of unconstitutionality? Why don't they? Because they are willing to let the assumption that any law passed by congress and signed by the president is constitutional prevail, and it might well follow that course, leaving to litigants the privilege of appealing from their decisions to the higher courts. The practice of minor judges in nullifying laws on constitutional grounds has been much overdone, but much so that proposals have been made that only the highest court of supreme court shall be permitted by law to deny the constitutionality of an act of congress."

## WHERE PUBLIC'S MONEY GOES.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Editorial writers who thunder in defense of "the public" when workers demand an eight-hour day, or better wages, find in the following material for their favorite subject.

Hearings are being held on the valuation of the Potomac Electric Power company plant, which the management appraises at $18,000,000, against $5,000,000 valuation by the public utilities commission. Included in the company's list is $650,000 for "conventions and conventions," $750,000 for "brokerage and commissions," $2,115,000 for "development and organization," $262,000 for "legal, franchise and miscellaneous" and $25,000 for "pre-organization charges."

The "conventions" compensation" represents the price paid to the men, who, as Corporation Counsel Syme put it, "thought they could get a little graft to have an electric light plant in Washington."

The company's expert agreed that it was hard to separate the charges of organization, conclave and attorneys, but as a general proposition the profession were to do nothing but think of the plan to electrify Washington and the investors were to do the real promoting "and see the proper people."

"You assert," said Corporation Counsel Syme, "that these conclaves come to the District of Columbia and tell the people how to get rich?"

"This is a hypothetical situation," said the company expert. "For such purposes we assume the other plants are non-existent."

## ASK PRINT PAPER EMBARGO.

Washington, Dec. 16.—An embargo on paper used by newspapers is asked in a joint resolution introduced by Senator Campbell, of Kansas. The bill would prohibit exportation of print paper for two years. Heavy fines and forfeiture of vessels or vehicles engaged in the traffic are provided for violation of the law.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Paper manufacturers claim the investigation of this high cost of paper, being conducted by the federal trade commission, is unfair to them. It is stated that they now have meeting in contemplation of the National Newspaper Publishers' association. The commission found that the paper manufacturers' average percentages show no increase in cost of paper manufacture in the first half of 1916, as compared with 1915. Selling expenses in the first half of 1916 were lower than in 1915 and profits, per ton, were higher.

## MANY HAVE OCCUPATIONAL ILLS.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Ten times as many persons are suffering from occupational diseases as from industrial accidents, examination would disclose, said Dr. David L. Edsall, of the Massachusetts General hospital, Boston, in an address before the conference on social insurance.

"Thousands of men and women are ill and think the cause is indigestion, while they actually have a disease caused by their work," he said. "Change of employment or the conditions surrounding their labor would remedy the illness. The only way to accomplish this is to encourage closer study of occupational diseases than is afforded by general medical practice."

Compensation should be paid to sufferers from occupational diseases just as promptly as to those in industrial accident victims, Dr. Edsall declared.

## CAN PAY GIRLS LIVING WAGE.

Port Arthur, Tex., Dec. 16.—At a mass meeting in the interest of telephone girls on strike, which was addressed by one of the speakers dared the company to open the books for an investigation and pledged the word of a prominent man in this city to the statement that if it could be shown that the girls the company could afford to pay not only $50 per month, but $75 per month to their operators and still make a profit of 10 per cent on their investment, which was based on the amount represented by the value of the plants in Port Arthur would be willing to increase the price of their phones to such an extent that it would allow them to pay a living wage.

## WANT VETO POWER EXTENDED.

New York, Dec. 16.—The Merchants' association of this city favors extending the veto power of the president of the United States to disapprove any separate items or provisions contained in any appropriation bill. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States will submit the question to a referendum vote of its members.

The extension of the veto power is urged "to prevent the abuses which lie at the root of certain governmental extravagances."

## LAWYERS GALORE.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 16.—In the annual directory of living graduates of Yale university it is stated that the total number of degrees awarded since the founding of the school is 20,000 and there are 10,216 living holders of Yale degrees and more than one-fifth of the graduates follow the legal profession.

## INDIVIDUAL WORKER IS A SORRY PICTURE

Washington, Dec. 16.—In a vigorous defense of collective bargaining by workers, Secretary of Labor Wilson, in his annual report, presents this picture:

"A solitary wage worker faces a force that is ready to bid for work to do. Back of him a shadowy mass of individual bargainers eager for the job. Fronting him the foremost upon whose word his livelihood depends. Over the foreman a superintendent whom the foreman must satisfy. All of which the president is expected to interpret that the prototypes of Tooley street do not favor trade unions. The railroad brotherhoods.

It is no secret that this "organization" is being encouraged by the railroad managers.

A similar movement was started last August, when the president of the road who claimed to represent 1,500,000 unorganized railroad employes and who has refused a conference with the president. This individual was at one time the head of the secret service department of the Illinois Central, Big 4 & St. Louis railroad, a branch of the Louisville & Nashville. When telegraphers employed by the former road threatened to strike, three years ago, this individual was in charge of the company's strikebreaking bureau.

## UNITY IS NECESSARY.

Denver, Dec. 16.—There is no phase of human life or activity but what finds trade unionism represented in it and it can, with the light and resources it has, says Secretary-Treasurer Anderson of the state federation of labor, find a plan for greater unity and activity.

"During the past year much has been done towards bringing about these greatly desired results. Closer and more friendly relationship has been created between the men and women of our craft organizations and also the farmers of our state. A better conception of the duties that they owe to each other is being created in the minds of the rank and file, and a more thorough understanding of how they can best help each other has been given every one, and this work has been paved for an ultimate direct affiliation on the part of every one of all these organizations with the Federal Labor Union movement.

"But we are in a very critical period of the state federation of labor's history. The old-time 'progress-and-prosperity' opposition, as well as the enemies of organized labor, are also strongly organized and have established a fund of reactionary servitude, tying our hands by means of compulsory arbitration, whereby strike (and a lockout) is held to be illegal until some political authority passes upon the issue in dispute, therefore to a final strike as a last resort in our movement and by unity of action force the proper solution of this problem that confronts us."

## "GOLD BRICK" BUSINESS MEN.

San Francisco, Dec. 16.—The case with which detectives and other strikebreaking agencies wheedle money out of labor unions is shown by a letter which has been given to the press by Samuel A. Burns International Detective Agency, however, shows that the field for "gold bricks" among business men is always open. The letter, a circular signed by F. H. Tharp, manager, it is stated that special reports on the Baltimore situation, which the A. F. of L. furnished clients for $25.

"This is a small price, reports is so small," writes Manager Tharp, "that it is well worth the expenditure to know just what the situation is and what may have to meet in the coming year."

Trade unionists call attention to the fact that conventions and proceedings are always open to the public and that business men who are interested can save $24.75 by writing to Secretary Morrison, A. F. of L. building, Washington, D. C. for an official copy of the proceedings.

## STATE INSURANCE PAYS.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 16.—On January 1 next the state insurance fund will declare a dividend of $90,000 that will be distributed to policyholders. As the state fund's initial rate is 10 per cent below that of private insurance companies, the saving to state fund policy holders is from 20 to 25 per cent, as compared with concerns that have refused to deal with the stock companies. The state fund is the result of the convention of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, in which it is estimated that $324,000,000 of coal is wasted or destroyed besides natural gas and crude oil.

It was stated that from 10 to 20 per cent of the coal mined now could be saved without additional investment by more efficient methods.

"The same people," says Mr. Asbe, "would strive for an extra mile or two in the line with their automobile, and are wasting 20 per cent or more of the coal burned in their factories."

## WON'T PATRONIZE STREET CARS.

New York, Dec. 16.—The public service commission is worried over the congested transportation system of this city. A strike of street car men, started last September, has resulted in the street car companies losing 200,000 passengers a day. These now patronize the subways. The problem is to divert this number to the surface cars, and thus relieve the congestion. The opinion is ventured that the surface lines are abandoned "because of the contempt which trolleymen and conductors are giving the public."

## ANTI-UNIONISTS RENAMED.

Detroit, Dec. 16.—Organizer Henderson of the Machinists' union says the National Metal Trades association should be named "National Strife Breeders' association."

"The greatest barrier to harmony between the workers and employers is the friction and poor management," he says. "In the majority of cities where this organization does not exist there is a friendly and open relationship. It is only in those cities where friction occurs.

## CIGAR MAKERS RAISE WAGES.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 16.—Cigar makers' union and manufacturers have agreed on a new wage scale, to become effective the first of the year. An increase of 50 per thousand will be paid on all 5 and 10 cent goods and $1 per thousand on special and 15-cent cigars. Packers will be increased 12½ cents per thousand for boxes containing 50 and 100 cigars.

## BRICKLAYERS WANT MORE.

Cincinnati, Dec. 16.—Bricklayers' union No. 15 has voted to ask for a wage increase of 5 cents per hour, to become effective the first of next May.

## BALTIMORE JOB PRINTERS RAISE WAGES $3 A WEEK

Baltimore, Dec. 16.—Typographical union No. 12 has ratified a new book and job scale, which provides an increase of $3 per week all around. The bill of prices finally agreed upon by the union's committee and employers is substantially as follows:

Hand work—Day scale: Foremen not less than $25 per week; assistant foremen, proofreaders, makers-up, hand compositors and such other employes as belong to the union are now and not otherwise classified, $21 per week. Night scale, $24 per week.

Machine scale (book and job)—Operators of typesetting devices, not less than $4 per day for day work, and not less than $4.50 per night for night work. Machine tenders shall be paid on the same basis as operators. Learners, $15.40 per week for a period not exceeding six months.

Eight hours shall constitute a day's or night's work. Overtime in all cases to be paid for at the rate of price and one-half. Work performed on Sunday and holidays shall be paid for at the rate of double price.

Other features of the agreement include a minimum scale for apprentices and a provision that makes it necessary for an apprentice to take the International Typographical union course of study below, which will be introduced immediately upon approval of the legislation and to apply to all employes of the United States and of the District of Columbia, viz:

"Those employes receiving salaries of $1,000 or more, but less than $1,500 per annum, an increase of 25 per cent;

"Those employes receiving salaries of $1,500 or more but less than $2,000 per annum, an increase of 20 per cent.

"Those employes receiving salaries of $2,000 or more, but less than $2,500 per annum, an increase of 15 per cent.

"Those employes receiving salaries of $2,500, or more, to per cent.

"These increases to apply to employes regardless of whether they are paid by the piece, hour, day, month or year, and all civilian employes hereafter employed to be classified, in the civil service or outside of the civil service."

The president was authorized to appoint committees to inaugurate a nation-wide campaign in behalf of the above request that will extend to the constituents of senators and congressmen.

## A MODERN SOPHIST.

New York, Dec. 16.—In ancient Greece a class of men arose who argued that right is misleading, yet so plausible, in their reasoning that they puzzled seekers of truth.

The New York World typifies the modern Sophist. It censures President Gompers because he opposes the president's plan to prohibit strikes until a public investigation is held.

While the World does not deny that it will be a crime if workers strike, under the proposed plan, this paper says:

"In his message to the last President Wilson suggested nothing resembling in the least 'compulsory service,' 'enforced labor' or 'industrial slavery.'"

And then, with the reader's mind away from the question of interference with it, may cause the employer's business."

## MILLIONS LOST IN COAL.

New York, Dec. 16.—People who scheme to increase the nation's annual income of energy may read with profit a report on "Power Plant Efficiency," by Victor J. Azbe, presented at convention of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, in which it is estimated that $324,000,000 of coal is wasted or destroyed besides natural gas and crude oil.

It was stated that from 10 to 20 per cent of the coal mined now could be saved without additional investment by more efficient methods.

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## U. S. WAGE INCREASES IS URGED BY A. F. OF L.

**A $2 minimum and wage increases for every employe of the United States government, regardless of location or classification.**

Washington, Dec. 16.—At a conference of trade union representatives, held in the A. F. of L. building, last Sunday, it was agreed that congress be urged to take the above action.

The conference was attended by nearly 100 organized government employes, and included every trade and calling. President Gompers presided and Secretary Frank Morrison acted as secretary.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, the cost of the actual necessities of life has advanced in an unprecedented degree during the last few years, and,

"Whereas, the wages and salaries of the rank and file of government employes and the employes of the District of Columbia have not been generally increased since 1853, but, on the contrary have been subjected to a constant decrease because of the steadily growing number of hours of the day's labor, and the extension of the hours of work; therefore, it

"Resolved, That the Congress of the United States be and is hereby earnestly requested to enact legislation to alleviate existing conditions by providing increases of pay at the rates mentioned below, to take effect immediately upon approval of the legislation and to apply to all employes of the United States and of the District of Columbia, viz:

"Those employes receiving salaries of $1,000 or more, but less than $1,500 per annum, an increase of 25 per cent;

"Those employes receiving salaries of $1,500 or more but less than $2,000 per annum, an increase of 20 per cent.

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"In his message to the last President Wilson suggested nothing resembling in the least 'compulsory service,' 'enforced labor' or 'industrial slavery.'"

And then, with the reader's mind away from the question of interference with it, the World, in true Sophist style, continues:

"According to the Gompers' view, society has no right to protect itself and labor is bound to respect. It is a privileged class, superior to the will of congress and superior to the interests of the state. It refuses to be governed except by its own wishes and purposes. Society can control capital, but not labor. Labor is a privileged nations. Eventually Mr. Gompers will learn better."

## MINERS' WORK DAYS AND WAGES.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 16.—The state industrial commission reports that pick miners employed in Ohio coal mines averaged a working day of 7.1 hours in 1915. The average rate of wage per day was $3.06, or a total of $466.36 for the entire year.

Of 5,430 employes in the sandstone industry reported on, it is stated that 230 receive, per week, under $10; 736 under $12, and 794 under $13.

The total mining for the year 1915 resulted in a loss of time equal to the entire time of 1,668 men for one year.

## U. S. BUILDS NEW SHIPS.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The bureau of navigation, department of commerce, reports that up to November 1, 1,686 vessels, of 1,000 gross tons and upwards, a total of 458,446 gross tons, have been built in American yards. During the month of October, the last year, 2,316 ships, a gross tonnage of 215,602 were constructed.

These figures are of especial interest when the dismal prophecies of seaman's law opponents are recalled.

## COMPENSATION IN WYOMING.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Dec. 16.—The first year and a half of the Wyoming compensation law has cost employers about $250,000. The expense of enforcing the law was 1.44 per cent, against 45 per cent cost to private companies.

## EIGHT HOURS FOR POLICEMEN.

Waco, Tex., Dec. 16.—The city commissioners have ordered an eight-hour day for police, beginning January 1. Mayor McNamara has urged this step for the last several months. All Waco municipal employes are now on an eight-hour basis.

## HEADLIGHT LAW UPHELD.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The United States supreme court has upheld the Indiana law requiring bright power headlights on locomotives.

## SUNDAY WORK TO END.

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 16.—Barbers' union has voted to close shops on Sunday, beginning the first of the year.